

11 storing on the unitary storage medium, a file-based access
12 mechanism including a root directory containing item localizing
13 information; the root directory containing the highest level file
14 of the TOC mechanism;

15 and wherein the audio information is accessible using either
16 the TOC access mechanism or the file-based access mechanism.

1 11. The method of Claim 10, wherein the root directory
2 contains lower level directories that each pertain to a
3 standardized audio format, thereby providing further access
4 mechanism at respective different levels.

12. The method of Claim 10, wherein the root directory
contains one or more Sub-TOC file directories that each contain
their own Sub-TOC file, each directory using a different respective
standardized audio format.

13. The method of Claim 12, wherein the number of sub-TOCs is
exactly equal to 2.

14. The method of Claim 12, wherein the respective audio
formats include at least a stereo format and at least a multi-
channel audio format.

1 15. A unitary medium produced by the method of Claim 10.

1 16. The medium of claim 15 wherein:
2 the root directory contains one or more Sub-TOC file
3 directories that each contain their own Sub-TOC file;
4 each directory uses a different respective standardized audio
5 format; and

6 the respective audio formats include at least a stereo format
7 and at least a multi-channel audio format.

1 17. A reader for an optical disc, comprising:

2 disc holding means;

3 optical reading means for producing a read signal from the
4 optical disc;

5 disc driving means for moving the optical read means with
6 respect to a track on the optical disc; and

7 access means for controlling the disc drive means for
8 accessing information stored on the optical disc using access
9 mechanisms of the disk, the access mechanisms including:

10 a Table-of-Contents (TOC) access mechanism specifying an
11 actual configuration of various audio items on the medium, a
12 highest level of the TOC mechanism pointing to the audio items and
13 a lowest level TOC file points immediately to the respective
14 contents of the audio items; and

15 a file-based access mechanism including a root directory
16 containing item localizing information; the root directory
17 containing the highest level file of the TOC mechanism;

18 and wherein the audio information is accessible using either
19 the TOC access mechanism or the file-based access mechanism.